

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 AF-06 IO-11 OMB-01 OPIC-03 AID-05

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SSC-01 CU-02

EB-07 /101 W

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P R 221312Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5751

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION TO NOV 25 COUP

REF: LISBON 0409 (DTG 201226Z JAN 76)

SUMMARY: LISBON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER BG VASCO L
OURENCO

EXPRESSED "SORROW" JAN 21 OVER IMPLICATION OF FORMER "COMRADES"
IN NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT AND WARNED AGAINST DANGER OF RENEWED
EFFORTS BY POLITICAL PARTIES TO EXPLOIT MILITARY. AT JAN 22
PRESS CONFERENCE, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC LEADER SA CARNEIRO STOPPED
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SHORT OF DEMANDING COMMUNIST OUSTER FROM GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. MORE REACTIONS TO NOV 25 REPORT:

--VASCO LOURENCO: IN JAN 21 REMARKS TO SETUBAL INFANTRY REGIMENT, LISBON MILITARY REGION COMMANDER BG VASCO LOURENCO EXPRESSED HIS "SORROW" AT SEEING SO MANY OF HIS "COMRADES" IMPLICATED IN NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT BY OFFICIAL REPORT ON COUP (REFTEL). LOURENCO RHETORICALLY ASKED WHO WAS "REALLY RESPONSIBLE" FOR IMPRISONMENT OF NOV 25 DETAINEES, WHOSE "ENTHUSIASM AND AND INEXPERIENCE" HE SAID HAD BEEN EXPLOITED. LOURENCO WARNED OF DANGER THAT SOME "POLITICAL PARTIES" WOULD ATTEMPT TO REGAIN INFLUENCE IN ARMED FORCES. "WE ARE NOT AGAINST POLITICAL PARTIES," LOURENCO STATED, "BUT RATHER DESIRE THEM TO ACT IN THEIR OWN DOMAIN."

--SA CARNEIRO: IN JAN 22 PRESS CONFERENCE, POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PPD) LEADER SA CARNEIRO LASHED OUT AT THE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE NOV 25 EVENTS. HE NOTED THAT THE PRELIMINARY REPORT RELEASED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) IMPLICATED THE PCP "BEYOND." GIVEN THE FACTS PRESENTED IN THE RC REPORT, SA CARNEIRO CONCLUDED, THE PPD NATIONAL COUNCIL AND THE OTHER ORGANS OF THE PARTY WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT POSITION TO ADOPT REGARDING THE PCP AND OTHER "ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY."

--MDP: FELLOW-TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (MDP) CHARGED JAN 21 THAT REPORT'S AUTHORS HAD DECIDED BEFOREHAND THAT "PLOT" TO CARRY OUT COUP EXISTED, AND HAD DISREGARDED EVIDENCE WHICH FAILED TO JIBE WITH THEIR PRECONCEPTIONS. MDP CHARGED THAT RELEASE OF REPORT WOULD PREJUDICE PUBLIC OPINION AND MAKE FAIR TRIALS FOR DETAINEES IMPOSSIBLE.

--UDP: IN JAN 21 PRESS CONFERENCE, MARXIST-LININIST POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION FLATLY REJECTED REPORTS ALLEGATIONS OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING OR EXECUTION OF COUP. IT ADMITTED, HOWEVER, ITS TOTAL SUPPORT FOR POSITION OF MUTINOUS PARATROOPERS OUTSIDE MILITARY POLICE HEADQUARTERS NOV 25.

2. PACT NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN: FIRST MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL(RC) AND POLITICAL PARTIES
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--IN THIS CASE SOCIALISTS--ON REVISION OF AFM-PARTIES PACT TOOK PLACE JAN 21. NO OFFICIAL STATEMENT WAS RELEASED. UPON LEAVING MEETING, SOCIALIST REPRESENTATIVE MARIO SOTTOMAYOR CARDIA CONFINED COMMENTS TO OBSERVATION THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE. FONMIN MELO ANTUNES, REPRESENTING RC, EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT TALKS WOULD REACH SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, BUT DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS ON GROUNDS THAT OTHER PARTIES REMAINED TO BE CONSULTED. NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME JAN 25, AGAIN WITH

SOCIALISTS.

3. NEW SECRETARIES OF STATE: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES SWORE IN FIVE NEW SECRETARIES OF STATE JAN 21. ACTION LEAVES ONLY ONE SUB-CABINET POSITION, SECRETARIAT OF STATE FOR CULTURE, VACANT. NEW SECRETARIES ARE:

--HEALTH-DR. ALBINO AROSO RAMOS (PPD)
--RETURNEES-DR. AMANDIO DD AZEVEDO (IPD)
--SOCIAL SECURITY-ENG. VICTOR VASQUES (PS)
--FINANCES-DR. ANTONIO LUCIANO DE SOUZA FRANCO (PPD)
--AGRARIAN REFORM-ENG. VICTOR SA (PCP)
--MERCHANT MARINE-CDR FERNANDO FINHEIRO (MIL)

4. ANTUNES TO BRUSSELS: FONMIN ERNESTO DE MELO ANTUNES WILL REPRESENT PORTUGAL IN JAN 23 MEETING OF ATLANTIC COUNCIL. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO LISBON EVENING OF SAME DAY FOR MEETINGS WITH VISITING DUTCH FONMIN MAX VAN DER STOEL, BUT WILL LEAVE PORTUGAL AGAIN JAN 26 FOR THREE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO BELGIUM. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION COL. JOSE LUIS FERREIRA DA CUNHA TRAVELLED TO STRASBURG JAN 22 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON MEDIA AFFAIRS.

5. COMMENT: LOURENCO'S COMMENTS ON POLITICAL PARTIES REFLECT DETERMINATION AMONG CURRENT MILITARY LEADERSHIP NOT TO ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE "DUPED" BY POLITICIANS, AS THEY FEEL THEMSELVES TO HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST. WHILE REMARKS ARE DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST COMMUNISTS AND FAR LEFT, THEY BETRAY LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR LEGITIMATE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

6. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CENTER PARTY (CDS). PPD'S PRINCIPAL
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RIVAL ON THE RIGHT, HAS ALREADY COME OUT STRONGLY AGAINST CONTINUED PCP PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. PPD NATIONAL CONGRESS, WHICH MEETS THIS WEEKEND IN LISBON, COULD PRODUCE A SIMILAR CALL, BUT SA CARNEIRO STOPPED SHORT OF DEMANDING PCP OUSTER.
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